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#### **ORGANIC CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Virginia farmers and producers who wish to sell their products as "certified organic" must first undergo the organic certification process overseen by USDA accredited organic certification companies that operate independently under the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). At present, there are eight or more certification companies, all based out of state, doing certification work in Virginia (contact information can be found in this brochure). Upon receipt and review of the inspection application, these certification companies (or certifiers) assign an independent organic inspector to verify the farm/producers' activities.

#### **USE OF THE WORD "ORGANIC"**

There are certain rules pertaining to the use of the word "organic." The National Organic Standard states that in order for any production or handling operation to produce or sell crops/livestock, etc. intended to be "sold, labeled or represented as organic," they "must be certified." There is an exemption for producers/handlers making less than \$5,000 gross annual income from organic sales, but they must comply with organic production, handling and labeling requirements (recordkeeping) and must be available for spot inspections.

#### **ORGANIC STANDARDS**

# National Organic Program (NOP)

Contact the NOP for information on organic standards for farm/crop, livestock and processing, the national list of allowed synthetic and prohibited natural materials, accredited certifiers, questions & answers and more.

(202) 720-3252

www.ams.usda.gov/nop

# PRODUCT LISTS ALLOWABLE FOR USE IN ORGANIC PRODUCTION

# Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)

Publishes and disseminates generic and specific (brand name) lists of materials allowed and prohibited for use in the production, processing, and handling of organic food and fiber.

(541) 343-7600

www.omri.org

#### **CERTIFIERS SERVICING VIRGINIA**

(May not be a complete list)

OEFFA (Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Assoc.) Steve Sears (419) 853-4060

QAI (Quality Assurance International - California) Maria DeVincenzo (858) 792-3531

GOA (Global Organic Alliance - Ohio) Betty Kananen (937) 593-1232

SCS (Stellar Certification Services - Oregon) Jim Fullmer (541) 998-5691

ICO (Indiana Certified Organic) Cissy Bowman (317) 539-4317

QCS (Quality Certification Services - Florida) Ram Krishnan (352) 377-8363

NCCI (North Carolina Crop Improvement) Darell Bowman (919) 515-2851

OT (Oregon Tilth) Kristy Korb (503) 378-0690

#### NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### The New Farm

Organic Web site with articles on organic production methods, certification information and comparison of certification companies.

www.newfarm.org

# Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)

The national sustainable farming information center.

(800) 346-9140

www.attra.org

# NATIONAL ORGANIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### The Organic Trade Association (OTA)

The membership-based business association for the organic industry in North America.

(413) 774-7511

www.ota.com

#### **VIRGINIA ORGANIZATIONS**

# VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Division of Marketing

Promotes economic development and growth in Virginia agriculture, encourages environmental stewardship and provides consumer protection.

102 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

540- 377-2564 www.vdacs.virginia.gov

#### **Humane Farm Animal Care**

Certifier of humane operations which provide viable standards for humane food production and ensures consumers that certified products meet the standards.

P.O. Box 727, Herndon, VA 20172

www.certifiedhumane.com

# VA Organic Producers and Consumers Association (VOPCA)

Brings organic farmers, consumers, government, environmental and economic interests together; expands and promotes organic farming and markets in Virginia; preserves farmland and open space.

P.O. Box 83, Middleburg, VA 20118

(540) 687-6866 www.vopca.org

# VA Association for Biological Farmers (VABF)

Active network of citizens in Virginia whose primary focus is to provide information and services to farmers, gardeners and consumers about biological agriculture.

5146 Plank Rd., Natural Bridge, VA 24578 (540) 291-433 **www.vabf.org** 

#### **VIRGINIA ORGANIC SOURCES**

# Cargill Animal Nutrition/Nature Smart Organics

Certified organic grains, blended feed; consulting. 407 Blueberry Hill Road, Scottsville, VA 24590 Pete Jensen (434) 591-0147

# Countryside Natural Products

www.naturesmartorganics.com

Certified organic seed, grain, feed (bulk and minibulk), soil amendments, and related products.

1688 Jefferson Hwy., Ste. 104

Fishersville, VA 22939

Fax (540) 946-8534; (888) 699-7088

www.countrysidenatural.com

#### **Kreamer Feeds**

Certified organic feeds (bulk and bagged). P.O. Box 38, Route 522 N., Kreamer, PA 17833 800-767-4537 or 570-374-8148 www.organicfeeds.com

Certified Organic Producer Directory - Visit www.vdacs.virginia.gov

#### **Lancaster Agricultural Products**

Seed, soil amendments, fertilizers, animal health products.

340 Beechdale Road, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505 717-295-9100; E-mail: lancasterag1@verizon.net

#### LR Seeds LLC

Certified organic and conventional forage seeds and custom blends.

2334 Harness Shop Road, Dayton VA 22821 (877) 434-7333, (540) 879-2922

#### **McGeary Grains**

Certified organic grains, feed, fertilizer; flour. P.O. Box 299, Lancaster, PA 17608-0299 800-624-3279 www.mcgearyorganics.com

### **Rockingham Cooperative**

Bulk certified organic grain and feed ingredients, organic fertilizers and organic feed grade molasses. 102 Grace Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 877-434-1217; 540-434-3850; FAX 540-434-1217 E-mail: klturner@rockinghamcooperative.com www.rockingham cooperative.com

### **Rockingham Milling**

Feedmill supplying custom bulk certified organic feeds. 114 Meigs Lane, Dayton, VA 22821 (540) 879-2331; Fax (540) 879-5040

# Southern Exposure Seed Exchange

Certified organic seed (many tested in VA), garden supplies.

1259 Indian Creek Road, Mineral, VA 23117 (540) 894-0595; Fax (540) 894-9481 E-mail: gardens@southernexposure.com

www.southern exposure.com

#### Seven Springs Farm

Organic seeds, fertilizers, animal supplements, pest management products and grower's supplies. 426 Jerry Lane NE, Check, VA 24072 (540) 651-3228; E-mail: 7springs@swva.net www.7springsfarm.com

#### Southern States Front Royal

Supplier of Nature's Best Organic Feeds and organic seeds and fertilizers. 50 Water Street, Front Royal, VA 22630 (800) 248-2053

# CERTIFIED ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PROCESSORS IN VIRGINIA

### **Double A Farm Enterprises**

Certified organic processor of organic and conventionally raised poultry. 5900 Old Union Road, Charles City, VA 23030 (434) 535-8220 (farm); (804) 898-1983 (cell) www.doubleafarmpork.com

### Fauquier's Finest Country Butcher Shop

Certified organic (for primal cuts). Processing organic and conventional beef, pork, lamb, goat, bison, emu and wild game.
11746 AG Industrial Drive, Bealeton, VA 22712 (540) 439-7227; (540) 439-7228; Fax (540) 429-3227 www.fauquiersfinest.com

# **Gore Processing**

Certified Organic & Humane. Processing organic and conventional beef, pork and lamb. 12526 South Middle Road, Edinburg, VA 22824 (540) 984-8138; Fax (540) 984-8139

#### **VIRGINIA ORGANIC MILK BUYERS**

#### Horizon Organic

Cindy Masterman (888) 648-8377 or Michelle Sandy (540) 290-6010

#### **Organic Valley**

Lowell Rheinheimer (651) 492-2184

#### **VIRGINIA ORGANIC MEAT BUYERS**

### The Organic Butcher of McLean

Buyers and sellers of Virginia raised organic meats. 6712 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22101 (703) 790-8300

# The Organic Butcher of Charlottesville

416 West Main Street, Charlottesville, VA 22903 (434) 244-7400

E-mail:\_info@theorganicbutcher.com

### www.theorganicbutcher.com

Potential producers should contact Ryan at ryan@theorganicbutcher.com

# Ayrshire Farm

Producer and buyer of organic meats including humanely raised, dry-aged beef, pork, veal, lamb and poultry. Also organic eggs, vegetables and fruits.

P.O. Box 599, Upperville, VA 20185 (540) 592-9504; Fax (540) 592-7093 Potential producers should contact Susie Hass at susiehass@mindspring.com www.AyrshireFarm.com

#### Home Farm Store

Retailing and wholesaling local, certified organic, organic and certified humane meats including beef, pork, poultry, lamb, veal and eggs. Large selection of prepared foods as well as other organic foods. 1 Washington Street, Middleburg, VA Potential producers and buyers should contact Teresa Reynolds, butcher or Brian Seiwell, retail manager at (540) 687-8882.



Division of Marketing
Office of Direct Marketing Services
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